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The invasion of America. A fact story based on the inexorable mathematics of war. By Julius W. Muller. (New York: E. P. Dutton and company, 1916. 352 p. \$1.25 net)

The method of argument by prophesy is one of the oldest forms of the persuasive art. The reviewer remembers when wandering about the library stacks to have come across an unfamiliar "*History of our great civil war*," with the copyright date 1860. It was no misprint, but correctly dated a detailed and dull account of United States history through the administration of Lincoln, the election of Seward, and the consequent outbreak and conclusion of a war of decidedly modest proportions. Mr. Muller's book belongs to this class.

Mr. Muller has made a careful study of the organized military resources of the United States and other countries, and has written an account of what he believes could happen, and in his opinion would happen, if we were suddenly, apparently with a month's warning, attacked by the four most powerful naval powers in the world. His knowledge of existing military and naval conditions, coast defense, geography, and industrial strategy, seems sound. His knowledge of the American people, their characteristics, and their history is practically non-existent.

CARL RUSSELL FISH

America and her problems. By Paul H. B. d'Estournelles de Constant, member of the senate of France and delegate to the peace conferences at The Hague, 1899 and 1907. (New York: Macmillan company, 1915. 545 p. \$2.00)

We have here one of that endless number of books of travel, comment and description, which purport to do something or other; 'tis not quite clear what. Perhaps we may justly say that they purport to study American institutions and character, on the theory that America, in and of itself, stands for something or is developing into something which is of interest and value to mankind. They began to issue from the press some scores, yes hundreds, of years ago; and, as every investigator knows, many of them became of real value and interest some decades after they were published. So it may be with this volume; it may prove to be for the student in the year two thousand a valuable account of what a twentieth century Brissot de Warville or De Tocqueville thought he discovered in this big heaving democracy, which by the year 1915 had nearly abandoned its old callow sensitiveness about what anybody thought or wrote about it, and had grown, too, not only insensitive but heedless.

Like other books from the pen of distinguished and high-minded Frenchmen, this volume presents the findings of a man who has a theory

and a consuming interest; it is not therefore coldly objective; the author, passionately devoted to the cause of peace and passionately opposed to militant rivalry between nations, finds plentiful opportunity for contemplation and for philosophizing on America's peaceful achievements and its duty to the world. The volume contains, in no very coherent way, incidents and reflections of journeyings in America which were undertaken, it seems, in the cause of peace.

It is not pleasant to be uncomplimentary to such a book as this, for one cannot read far without seeing and admiring the spirit of the author — a spirit of goodwill, simple and engaging frankness, hearty appreciation, courageous optimism, and thorough-going idealism. But the charming qualities of the author are scarcely sufficient to make large portions of the book either interesting or profitable to the student of history or the general reader. The Frenchman of today, if he has time to read anything but the latest *communiqué*, might conceivably be entertained or even enlightened by the account of the author's experiences in this humdrum western world of ours; and, as I have said, posterity in America may profit by the perusal of his pages. But present day America will not gain much from them. The truth is the volume is neither fish, nor flesh, nor good red herring; it's a *pot pourri* of unimportant incidents, casual happenings, comments on things which do not strike you and me as anything worth commenting about, wise reflections, sensible suggestions, and, finally, really serious presentations of what America and the world can gain by peace, national rectitude and righteous attention to duty. Had the author published in English for American consumption a brief and noble-minded presentation of the facts and theories which bear directly on national duty — a task for which he is thoroughly qualified — he might have done something for us; as it is, his really great message may never find its way out of the covers of this strange medley. To justify my assertion and to explain my lament, let me give the outline of one chapter, the title of which is "The states of Illinois and Ohio!" The chapter contains seven main divisions, which, with some omissions of particular items, are as follow: 1. Chicago . . . 2. Art, music, literature, science, philosophy. 3. The American barber. 4. The universities of Chicago and Illinois; Chicago; Urbana. The religion of the future. The Chinese revolution boycotted by European diplomacy. 5. Woman and the drink question. 6. Cincinnati . . . Organization of peace and aviation. The need of this organization is shown by the present war. 7. End of the first part of my campaign.

Thus the reader finds it hard to be patient or to bear with fortitude the sensation of being hurried hither and yon, in vain attempt to follow the

agile mind of the traveller. And still, when this is said, not all is said; for the American reader, if he will be content to turn the pages in search of the author's message, will find here and there much that is cogent and well worth thoughtful reading. It is only regrettable that there is so much chaff to be blown away in the search for the wheat.

A. C. McL.

Undercurrents in American politics. Comprising the Ford lectures, delivered at Oxford university and the Barbour-Page lectures, delivered at the University of Virginia in the spring of 1914. By Arthur Twining Hadley, president, Yale university. (New Haven: Yale university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1915. 177 p. \$1.35)

Observations on any subject by Mr. Hadley are sure to command thoughtful attention, for he has never written upon any subject for publication without enlightening it; and in a style always clear, direct and forceful. This book comprising six lectures is divided into two parts, the first part dealing with "Property and democracy," the second with "Political methods—old and new."

Beginning with the adoption of the constitution, the author shows that the social and political institutions were essentially aristocratic, property being the basis for suffrage and office holding. With the westward movement of population and the system of small land holding, this basis continued and property interests became the controlling force in government, in legislation and even in court decisions, such as, for example, the Dartmouth college case and later those based upon the fourteenth amendment. In a word, rightly or wrongly, government came to be looked upon as the protector of property rather than the controller of personal relations. And the development of such an idea was natural, for the undeveloped resources of a new country required capital and the ownership of land. The social forces thus operated to develop industrial efficiency rather than industrial reform, the *laissez faire* theory and the competitive system rather than socialism and state control. After the civil war, however, it became apparent that competition did not protect all classes and the granger movement was the result; but throughout, the class struggle was economic; interest was arrayed against interest and it was not until the small land owner combined with the labor organizations that serious attempts were made to socialize industries and demand state control. But the experiments with state control have proved costly, more costly indeed than the public yet appreciates. Nor will the solution of this problem be reached "until the public demand for state control of industry and for trained civil service go hand in hand."